

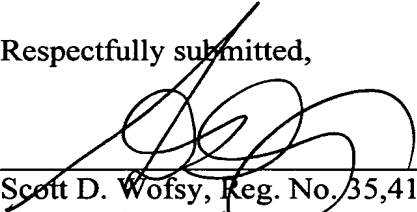
REMARKS

The subject application is the national phase application of PCT/EP/2004/000010 filed January 2, 2004, which claims priority to earlier filed German Patent Application No. 103 00 071.2 filed January 3, 2003, and to earlier filed US Provisional Patent Application No. 60/462,815 filed April 14, 2003.

By this preliminary amendment, original claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice in favor of new claims 34-64. The new claims correspond substantially to the amended claims of the underlying PCT application, which are annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report. However, these claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies, and in general, to place them in condition for examination. No new matter has been presented by these amendments. Early and favorable consideration of the subject application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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